

**WORK SESSION
APRIL 9, 2018**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Washington, Georgia, held their regular monthly Work Session on Monday, April 9, 2018, beginning at 3 PM at the Edward Pope Conference Center. Mayor Ames Barnett presided.

Present were: Mayor Barnett and council members Armour, Armour, Cullars and Scarborough. Council member Tutt joined the meeting at 3:05 PM and Council member Mahoney joined the meeting at 3:10 PM. Also present were City Administrator Bailey, City Clerk Danner and City Attorney Fleming.

Visitors included: Bradley Griffin, Charles Jackson, Kendra Dill, Hattie Callaway, Betty Hamilton, Michael O. Horgan, Jeanelle Ashmore, Annie Wilkinson, Claudell McClendon, Loretta Fanning, Tonya Binns, Dottri Jackson, Carrington Tutt, Adrienne Anderson Williams and Sparky Newsome of the News Reporter.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: Mayor Barnett advised of a proposed community garden to be located at the old practice field of WWCHS on Gordon Street. Plans are to lay out the garden this week as planting season nears. There will be a small deposit of \$25 and a \$5 per month charge for the irrigation water. The deposit amount will be refunded at the end of the growing season if the spot has been cleared.

Mayor Barnett also requested that council consider re-instating the \$150 carryover amount on utility bills. The administrative fees will be eliminated and reconnections fees for afterhours reconnection only.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES: City Administrator Bailey advised of a request for use of the square on September 7, 2018, for the Beta Sigma Phi Pedaling for Paws event to benefit the Animal Shelter and a request for closing of a city street on April 26, 2018, from 9:45 AM until 11:45 AM for a Trike a Thon to benefit St. Jude's.

Bailey also reminded council that a copy of two approved bids for the HVAC and Electric systems for the Fire Department rehab were included in the council packets. Council member Mahoney questioned the fact that there were no local bidders on this project. Requests for bids were advertised on the Clifton Construction website, the city website and in the local newspaper. Local contractors did seek further information from the Building Official, but failed to submit bids.

Bailey advised council that the special appointed Pope Center Committee met about the request for use of Pope Center grounds for a Labor Day event. Committee members concurred on setting the rental use fee at \$900 and also to require proof of 501C3 status. Ms. Lewis, event sponsor, did not have 501C3 status and declined the rental amount.

Council member Mahoney asked about the high school's use of the Pope Center for the April Prom and asked about the rental fees and charges to students.

CITY ATTORNEY UPDATES: City Attorney Fleming advised that council will be asked to vote for the second time during the regular meeting on the proposed change to the city charter establishing the schedule for council member salary payments as the same as for city employees.

City Attorney Fleming also advised that authorization for the Mayor to sign a letter to begin the process of terminating the SEPA contract will be sought during the regular meeting of council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

MAHONEY: Council member Mahoney advised that he had worked with Attorney Nelson on a proposed Ethics Hearing change to the way complaints are handled. Attorney Fleming will forward the proposed change to the city clerk for distribution to council for consideration at the May 2018 meeting.

Work Session adjourned at 3:36 PM.

MAYOR

CLERK